the availability of safer substitutes as well as the cost factor involved in the treatment of a particular disease. There is no system of global banning of drugs. There is an adequate mechanism to review the status of drugs in India as and when any serious adverse event is reported in international journals or WHO newsletters etc. 75 categories of drugs/drug formulations have so far been prohibited in the country.

The drug or formulations discontinued in developed countries are assessed by an expert committee in consultation with leading experts in given specializations. Based on their advice, the matter is placed before the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), a statutory body which comprises representatives from the medical profession, the State Drug Enforcement Authorities, experts, institutions, agencies that advise the Government on technical issues related to the implementation of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules thereunder.

Chennai-Madurai Jan Shatabdi Express

*79. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to introduce a Jan Shatabdi Express between Chennai and Madurai in view of ever increasing need and pressure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Introduction of Jan Shatabdi Express between the two cities is not feasible due to operational and resource constraints including severe line capacity and terminal constraints.

Destruction of trees due to insects

*80. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether *Derolus Descicollis* from Pakistan have infected the Khejri tree, which is known as 'Kalpvriksha' of Rajasthan resulting in drying of a large number of trees in the State;

(b) whether the insects have surfaced after almost 97 years and have devastated thousands of trees in the four districts of Nagour, Churu, Sikar and Jhunjhunu in the State; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Centre in co-operation with the State authorities to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c)

1. *Derolus Descicollis*, an insect borer (pest) was reported from Karachi in 1906.
2. The indiscriminate and successive lopping of Khejri tress (*Prosopis cineraria*) makes the trees susceptible to the attack by *Derolus descicollis*. The larvae of the pest make long, irregular tunnels in the wood of the infected trees which further get infected by the fungi, namely, *Alternaria, Phoma* and *Botryodiplodia* species causing mortality of the Khejri trees.
3. Large scale mortality of Khejri trees was first reported in the Nagaur district of Rajasthan by the State Government in February, 1999 and Arid Forest Research Institute (AFRI), Jodhpur was requested to undertake a study for diagnosing the reasons for large-scale mortality of Khejri trees in the State of Rajasthan.
4. The studies undertaken by AFRI, Jodhpur confirmed the presence of *Derolus Descicollis* as a new pest record on *Prosopis cineraria* from the arid areas of the North-Western districts of Rajasthan in 2000-01. A brief report along with the recommendations for mitigating the problem was made available to the State Government.
5. A training programme for the agricultural officers was organized at AFRI on 9th April, 1999 in which officers of Assistant Deputy Director levels were apprised of the remedial measures to be taken up for the control of the problem.
6. A scientific documentary film of 21 minutes duration developed in collaboration with Educational Media Research Centre

(E.M.R.C.), Jodhpur during 2002, has been telecast through DD-1 of the National Channel under the University Grants Commission (UGC) programme on 22nd January 2003 for educating the people.

7. AFRI has suggested the following measures to be taken for protecting Khejri trees aganst the pest/fungal attack:

(a) The indiscriminate lopping of Khejri trees by the farmers should be avoided.

(b) The lopped portions/open wounds should be treated with AFRI PASTE (One part of Copper Carbonate (Say 1/2 Kg) + One part Red Lead (say 1/2 Kg) + Two part white petroleum Jelly (1 Kg) or 1.25 ltr raw linseed oil and 3 ml Monocrotophos), developed by AFRI, to check the fungal infection and laying of eggs by the shoot borer i.e. D. descicollis.

(c) Severely infected and dried trees should be uprooted and the felled trees should be lifted from the vicinity immediately after theirexploitation.

(d) The trees, showing partial die-back symptoms should be treated with AFRI paste in order to check further spread of the pest/ disease.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Milk production in A.P.

317. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh to boost milk production in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) what results were achieved in milk production in the State during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India have extended financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh to boost the milk production through various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The Scheme-wise details of financial assistance extended to Andhra pradesh during last three years are at Statement (*See* below).